

SANITARY SCIENCE.

A SCEPTICAL VIEW OF THE SUBJECT.

MAGARIES OF SANITARY SCIENCE. By F. L. Dibble, M. D. Pp. 462. J. B. Lippincott Company.

Even the people who are satirized in this book, if they have proper capacity for enjoying a good thing, should get some pleasure from the pain of their castigation. There is no need of taking sides here with Dr. Dibble. As is said sometimes of women, he has a tongue of his own. Whether right or wrong, he has no lack of argument. It is a characteristic superstition of savages that no human being can die a natural death. If a man is not killed in fight, his demise must be due to witchcraft or demoniac agency, or to a stroke from the gods. Essentially, Dr. Dibble intimates that the popular view of disease in modern civilized nations is different only in degree from that of savages, and he depicts sanitary science as merely the formal statement of popular crudity.

This book is a natural outcome of the revision in these closing years of the nineteenth century against theories which have dominated England and the United States and to a less extent other countries for a generation. It is inspired by the scepticism which, along the whole line of recent speculation and ancient tradition, is demanding to know what the airy, sky-scraping structures of physical science, of hallowed theology, are built upon, and what the material is that has gone into their construction. The answers that are given to this scepticism are by no means satisfactory.

What the questioner wants are proofs; what he gets are formulas that have been more or less useful to investigators and theorists of the nineteenth century, but which require to be tested anew in the dawning light of a new age. It is only one of the structures proudly raised by the last generation and enlarged and decorated by the present one which the author seeks not merely to test, but to overthrow. He grants, to begin with, the utility, within certain narrow limits, of what he practically denounces as superstition. Sanitary science has had the indirect result of promoting personal and public cleanliness. But he insists that the purpose which it aimed at, the lessening of certain classes of disease, has not been attained; that the average duration of human life has not increased since the invention of this science as rapidly as it did before such a science was thought of; in short, that the whole system of modern sanitation, from a strictly scientific point of view, is not to use too fine a phrase—a humbug. "It," says he, "is a body of men, for speculative purposes; or if a certain number, destitute of industry and talent in the phenomena of nature, and titillated by irritable mediocrities to aspire to be nominated scientists; or, if amateur philanthropists, whose chief object in life is to break the monotony of an elegant leisure—if any, or all of these, to appease their thirst for the public money, or to satisfy their lust for power, or to delight their vanity, combine to impose on the popular mind, to excite fear and panic by pretending that the air, water, soil, food, and public improvements are so beset by perils to health and life that they cannot be enjoyed by the public unless they are controlled through legislative enactments, by the speculators, pseudo-scientists and pseudo-philanthropists, it is the privilege of the medical practitioner to declare the humbug. If its promoters take the ground that, unless the terrors of disease and death are portrayed as the penalty, the danger is great that the common herd will relapse into barbarism, filth and misery from elegance and comfort—then it is for each physician to judge how far he will lend himself to extend and perpetuate the delusion."

The general plan of the book is very simple. After briefly, and it must be said very inadequately, outlining the history of devices for the prevention of disease in ancient and mediaeval times, a chapter is devoted to the popular movement half a century ago in Great Britain which grew out of investigations of the conditions of the laboring classes. The conscientious qualms of the well-to-do people respecting their fellow beings in distress soon took the form, Dr. Dibble intimates, of unreasoning terror in their own behalf. Though the London poor had never been otherwise than miserable and filthy and overcrowded, yet, now that the facts were known, they were interpreted as having a totally different meaning from that which they had before. People confounded the discovery of a state of things with the origin of that state of things. It was as if the poor had yesterday been well-fed and well-distributed, clean and contented, and to-day were wretched, crowded and diseased. Dr. Dibble does not ignore the facts brought out by the investigations and it is to be presumed approves of reform. He only points out that the condition of the people and the state of the public were not shown by scientific tests to bear that relation to each other which was asserted by the new reformers.

The rise of sanitary science in the United States is ascribed by the author wholly to that familiar principle, "It's so English, you know." Having thus sketched the history of the new movement, he takes up the principles which it advocated, under the heads of air, water, soil, sewer-gas, cemeteries, public funeral, meat, milk, filth diseases, so-called, typhoid fever, yellow fever, cholera, diphteria, epidemics in general, and then descends upon the heads of health upon vital statistics. These various chapters are made up largely of quotations from public reports of various States, cities and towns in this country and of European nations, most of which represent the ordinary views of the day and are counterbalanced by other quotations from scientific men and by remarks to the same. This method of the book of it is in accordance with the usual practice of scientific controversy. It would be necessary, however, to go into minute detail in order to ascertain the merits of his argument. In a general way, he may be said to contradict in the most positive manner every proposition that sanitary science has advanced. He would, but for his own chicanery, because it is good in itself; but that the one is a cause of disease, or the other a prophylactic against it, he holds apparently as an opinion of no more scientific value than the superstitions of mediaeval times when the austere reformer discredited the etiologic theory of the Jews, and his prophylaxis consisted in first ridding and then roasting and hanging those unhappy people." He denies that the decay of organic matter, that drinking-water, that contact with a corpse, that meat or milk in a natural condition, have any recognizable effect of diseases. He asserts the utter uselessness of quarantine regulations, which then intimates the fullness of boards of health.

Dr. Dibble advises several classes of people not to read his book. "On the other hand, those timid people who for the last thirty years have had their waking hours vexed and their sleep plagued by an unceasing procession of sanitary terrors are invited to read it. It may comfort them."

New Publications.

New Publications.

BOOK.—French Conversations, 30c. (stamps) mailed postpaid, by FRENCH ACADEMY, 853 Broadway, N. Y., where students can rapidly acquire French conversation; free trial.

Instruction.

For Young Ladies—City.

BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, NO. 67 5TH-AVE. Rev. Dr. and Mrs. CHAS. H. GARDNER, Principal. Teacher of English branches wanted. Address: R. J. SACHS'S COLLEGE INSTITUTE

SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

116 WEST 59TH-ST., NEW YORK.

RE-OPENS SEPT. 27, 1893.

EXAMINATIONS FOR ADMISSION FROM DATE TO JUNE 29, 9 TO 11 A. M.

NEGLIGE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, NEW-HILLDORF, LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT, Mrs. WILLIAM D. BLACK, Patroness.

Mrs. & Miss CADY'S BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES, 56 BILLHOUSE AVE., NEW-HAVEN, CT.

MISS PERELLES' BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, 22 and 34 East 57th-St., New York.

Registers Thursday, Oct. 6, 1893. Primary Academic and Collegiate Departments. Special students admitted.

ADMONITION'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, 116 WEST 57TH-ST.

MISS SPENCER'S BOARDING AND DAY School for Girls, 6 West 38th-St., New York.

Registers Thursday, Oct. 6, 1893. Academic and College Preparatory Courses. Special students admitted. No more than eight pupils constitute any class.

MISS JAUDON'S BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL

FOR BOYS, 116 WEST 57TH-ST.

RE-OPENS SEPT. 27, 1893.

NEW YORK BUSINESS COLLEGE, 1236-Broadway, N. Y., All practical branches; day or evening. Call or address: CLEMENT C. GAINES, Mount Morris Bank Bldg.

SUMMER SCHOOL FOR GIRLS and YOUNG LADIES Open June 1 to Sept. 1, 1893. Modern Languages, Piano and Vocal. MISS LOUISE GROSBOIS, 116 WEST 57TH-ST.

(Former director of the Greenwich Conservatory of Music, Brooklyn.) IVY HILL FARM, Suffern, New York.

S. AGNEW SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, Albany, N. Y. Under the direction of Bishop Duane. Classes of Four Years for girls for grammar school, and for those taken to High School for Women. For Catalogue address: Miss E. W. BOYD, Principal.

T. HENRY C. DU MILLE'S PREPARATORY BOARDING SCHOOL FOR BOYS, 116 WEST 57TH-ST.

Address: Mr. C. MILLIE, Pompton, N. J.

THE HIGHLAND MILITARY ACADEMY, Worcester, Mass. For boys, each year send 12 Classical, Scientific, Business, Preparatory Departments. Gymnasium. Address: Mr. A. C. MILLIE, Worcester, N. J.

D. P. INGRAMSON & CO. offered, in partition the northeast corner of One-hundred-and-sixty-fifth-st. and Washington-ave., a vacant plot \$44,000. It was sold to Mary E. Kelher for \$8,000.

The other sales advertised were adjourned.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

Cherry-st., s. 219.3 ft. e. of Erie-st. 44x14 iron; William Miles and wife to A. Klein \$1

Same property; to A. Klein and wife to Jonas

Divisional St., s. 137.2 ft. e. of Johnson-st. 26x118

18x8. Louis Cohen to Nathan Marks 26,500

7th-st., s. 200.2 ft. e. of Erie-st. 40x100. Leased to

Louis Adler 22,775

Willard St., No. 29; Bath Robinson and another to Simon 450

34x10. Herman Baumann and wife to Samuel H. Stone and another 100 &c.

59th-st., s. 210.2 ft. e. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

P. P. Farnham, retired to Philip Farnham

12x8. S. 308.8 ft. e. of West Endav. 19x48

10x2. Walter Green and wife to Emma Losk

10x10. S. 18x10 ft. w. of Columbus-ave. 17x79.8

Hannah Wong to Ho Man 35,000

Rudolph Lorch to Sachman Friedman and wife

115th-st., s. 210.2 ft. e. of 21st-ave. 26x100.11

Leopold Lorch to Walter Green 5,000

12x10. S. 20x10 ft. w. of Park Ave. 25x100.11

Sachman Friedman and wife to Rudolph Lorch

115th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of Manhattan-ave. 10x10.11

James Reed and wife to Am. M. Reed

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w. of 118th-st. 25x100.11

Patterson, 11th-st., s. 210.2 ft. w